Import of edible oil

429. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be plreased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to import 1.5 lakh tones of edible oil to meet the demands of people ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have announced the policy that State Government can import edible oil on their own ; and

(c) if so, whether Government are willing to give foreign exchange to the State Governments to make such imports.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The Government have decided to import a quantity of 2.20 lakh MTs of Palmolein upto March '92 through STC. In addition State Governments have also been permitted to import 80,000 MTs of Palmolein during the current financial year.

(c) As per scheme of direct import by the State Governments, they are to import Palmolein by paying in Indian rupees which will be used to export 13 specified commodities. As such no outgo of free foreign exchange is involved.

New Public Distribution System

430. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be peased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that while Prime Minster has launched a new public d'stribution system with special emphasis on the 1700 blocks in identified backward areas, the PDS in various state like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is on the verge of collapse ; and

(b) if so, what corrective measures Government propose to take in this behalf ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Large quantities of commodities, such as wheat, rice,sugar, kerosene imported edible oils are distributed throughout the country at reasonable prices through the Public Distribution System (PDS). In an operaton of this magnitude, occasional dislocation due to local factors cannot be ruled out.

The strengthing of PDS is a continual process. State Administrations monitor the suppy and availabilty of essential commodities and undertake inspectons etc. to check malpraciices.

Public Distribution System to combat rising prices

431. SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to distribute more essntial items through the public distribution system to combat the rising prices ;

(b) if so, the items proposed to be brought under Public Distribution System ;

(c) how and from where these iems are to be procured; and

(d) by when proposed scheme is likely to come into force ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d)